

4-1960

Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: April Sermons

Herald of Truth

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HERALD

CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU WITH THE



F

TRUTH

RADIO
SERMONS

•
APRIL
1960

THE HERALD OF TRUTH MAY BE HEARD OVER THESE ABC AND MBS STATIONS

ALASKA

FairbanksKFRB 8:30 a.m.
SitkaKIFW 9:00 p.m.
(Wednesday)

ALABAMA

AnnistonWHMA 1:00 p.m.
AuburnWAUD 1:30 p.m.
Bay Minette.....WBCA 12:30 p.m.
BirminghamWATV 8:30 a.m.
ClantonWKLF
DecaturWAJF 8:00 a.m.
DothanWOOF 12:30 p.m.
EufaulaWULA 4:35 p.m.
FlomatonWTCB 8:30 a.m.
FlorenceWOWL 4:00 p.m.
FoleyWHET 1:00 p.m.
GenevaWGEA
HuntsvilleWASG
SylacuagaWFEB 4:35 p.m.
TalladegaWHTB 1:00 p.m.
(Saturday)
TroyWTBF 4:35 p.m.
TuscaloosaWNPT

ARIZONA

FlagstaffKCLS 8:00 a.m.
Sierra VistaKHFF 1:30 p.m.

ARKANSAS

BlythevilleKLCN 8:30 a.m.
CamdenKAMD 4:35 p.m.
CorningKCCB 1:30 p.m.
FayettevilleKFAY 7:05 a.m.
Fort SmithKFSA 9:00 p.m.
JonesboroKBTM 4:35 p.m.
Little RockKARK 5:30 p.m.
McGeheeKVSA 9:00 a.m.
ParagouldKDRS 6:30 p.m.
PrescottKTPA

CALIFORNIA

ChicoKPAY 7:35 a.m.
Los AngelesKABC 3:30 p.m.
NeedlesKSFE 7:00 a.m.
Paso RoblesKPRL 5:35 p.m.
San Francisco....KGO 3:30 p.m.
San Luis Obispo KVEC 7:35 p.m.
StocktonKWG 3:30 p.m.
San DiegoKGB 8:30 p.m.

COLORADO

DenverKOSI 8:00 a.m.

CONNECTICUT

AnsoniaWADS 8:35 a.m.
TorringtonWTOR 5:35 p.m.

FLORIDA

Fort PierceWARN 7:45 a.m.
JacksonvilleWPDQ 8:30 a.m.
MiamiWMIE 5:30 p.m.
MiltonWSRA
New Smyrna
BeachWSBB 5:35 p.m.
TampaWSUN 7:30 a.m.

GEORGIA

AlbanyWALB 2:30 p.m.
BremenWWCC 8:30 a.m.
BrunswickWGIG 6:30 p.m.
CartersvilleWBHF 6:35 p.m.
(EDT)
ColumbusWPNX 1:30 p.m.
CordeleWMJM 6:35 p.m.
(EDT)

FitzgeraldWBHB
GriffinWKEU 7:35 a.m.
HinesvilleWGML
LaGrangeWLAG 9:00 a.m.
MaconWRPB 3:25 p.m.
RomeWLAQ 7:15 p.m.
ThomsonWTWA 6:35 p.m.
ValdostaWGOV 2:30 p.m.

IDAHO

AlbionKMVC
BurleyKBAR
Idaho FallsKID 8:00 a.m.
NampaKFDX 1:30 p.m.
JeromeKART 8:30 a.m.
RupertKAYT 9:00 a.m.

ILLINOIS

ChicagoWLS 1:30 p.m.

INDIANA

LafayetteWASK 9:35 a.m.
North Vernon....WOCH 8:30 a.m.
VincennesWAOV 5:35 p.m.

This list is not 100% correct due to frequent changes.
All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.
Check your local newspaper or radio station for times not listed.

IOWA		Bozeman KBMN 7:45 a.m.
Fort Dodge KQFD 8:05 a.m.		Lewiston KXLO
Sioux City KSCJ 10:30 p.m.		NEBRASKA
KANSAS		Kearney KGFV 8:05 a.m.
Goodland KBLR 5:35 p.m.		Omaha KOWH
Saline KSAI 7:35 a.m.		NEVADA
KENTUCKY		Reno KMEQ
Bowling Green WKCT 1:30 p.m.		NEW HAMPSHIRE
Danville WHIR 5:35 p.m.		Keene WKNE 1:05 p.m.
Hopkinsville WKO 7:15 a.m.		NEW MEXICO
Henderson WSON 7:00 a.m.		Artesia KSVP 6:35 p.m.
Madisonville WFMW 6:35 p.m.		Raton KRTN 4:30 p.m.
Mayfield WNGO 2:30 p.m.		NEW YORK
Paducah WPA 8:30 a.m.		Malone WICY 6:35 p.m.
Paintsville WSIP 4:35 p.m.		(EDT)
Pikeville WPKE 6:35 p.m.		Massena WMSA 7:00 p.m.
Somerset WSFC 4:35 p.m.		(Saturday)
LOUISIANA		New York City WABC 2:30 p.m.
Baton Rouge WYNK 1:30 p.m.		Ogdensburg WELB 6:35 p.m.
Bogalusa WIKC 5:35 p.m.		(EDT)
Shreveport KRMD 1:30 p.m.		NORTH CAROLINA
Winnfield KVOL 8:00 a.m.		Burlington WBBB 6:35 p.m.
MARYLAND		(EDT)
Hagerstown WJEJ 2:30 p.m.		Clinton WRRZ
MICHIGAN		Durham WTIK 2:30 p.m.
Detroit WXYZ 5:30 p.m.		(EDT)
Escanaba WDBC		Gastonia WGNC 2:30 p.m.
Flint WTRX 2:30 p.m.		Goldsboro WFMC 1:00 p.m.
Ludington WKLA 2:30 p.m.		Hendersonville WHKP 2:30 p.m.
Muskegon WKBZ 6:30 p.m.		Hickory WHKY 2:30 p.m.
MINNESOTA		Lenoir WJRI 6:35 p.m.
Eveleth WEVE 5:35 p.m.		(EDT)
Montevideo KDMA		Mt. Airy WSYD 6:35 p.m.
MISSISSIPPI		(EDT)
Centerville WGLC 8:00 a.m.		Roanoke
Greenwood WABG 4:30 p.m.		Rapids WCBT 6:35 p.m.
Jackson WJDZ 9:30 p.m.		(EDT)
Laurel WLAU 1:30 p.m.		Reedsville WFRC
Natchez WNAT 2:00 p.m.		Salisbury WSAT 1:30 p.m.
Vicksburg WQBC 5:35 p.m.		NORTH DAKOTA
MISSOURI		Devils Lake KDLR 4:35 p.m.
Cape Girardeau KFVS 7:30 p.m.		Fargo KXGO 4:30 p.m.
Dexter KDEX		Grand Forks KILO 1:00 p.m.
Kansas City KCMO 8:30 a.m.		Valley City KOVC
Rolla KTTR 1:00 p.m.		OHIO
Springfield KWTO 1:30 p.m.		Ironton WIRO 6:35 p.m.
St. Joseph KRES 6:35 p.m.		(EDT)
St. Louis KXEN 8:30 a.m.		Toledo WTOL 9:30 a.m.
MONTANA		OKLAHOMA
Anaconda KANA 8:05 a.m.		Ardmore KVSO 1:30 p.m.

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Enid KCRC 6:00 p.m.		Nashville WSIX 7:00 p.m.
Oklahoma City KBYE 2:00 p.m.		Oak Ridge WOKE 9:00 a.m.
Lawton KSWO 9:00 p.m.		Oneida WBNT
Poteau KLCO 1:00 p.m.		Tullahoma WJIG 4:00 p.m.
Tulsa KTUL 8:30 a.m.		TEXAS
Wewoka KWSH 1:30 p.m.		Abilene KRBC 8:15 a.m.
OREGON		Amarillo KGNC 1:30 p.m.
Astoria KAST 6:35 p.m.		Big Spring KBST 1:30 p.m.
Couquille KWRO 8:30 a.m.		Borger KHUZ 5:05 p.m.
Eugene KASH 4:30 p.m.		Brownwood KBWD 7:30 p.m.
Lake View KQIK 8:30 a.m.		Clarksville KCAR 8:30 a.m.
Portland KWJJ 8:30 p.m.		Dallas KSKY 2:05 p.m.
PENNSYLVANIA		Eagle Pass KEPS
Coatesville WCOJ 5:30 p.m.		Freeport KBRZ
Johnstown WCRO 8:00 a.m.		Graham KSWA 4:30 p.m.
Lock Haven WBPZ 6:35 p.m.		Houston-
Phillipsburg WPHB 9:00 a.m.		Baytown KWBA 1:30 p.m.
St. Mary's WKBI 6:35 p.m.		Huntsville KSAM 6:00 p.m.
(EDT)		Longview KFRO 1:30 p.m.
Tyrone-Altoona WTRN 7:35 a.m.		Marshall KADO 9:00 p.m.
Washington WJPA 8:35 a.m.		Midland KCRS 1:30 p.m.
Wellsboro WNBT 6:35 p.m.		Monahans KVKM 4:35 p.m.
(EDT)		Pampa KPDN 4:35 p.m.
Wilkes-Barre WILK 7:30 a.m.		Perryton KEYE 8:15 a.m.
SOUTH CAROLINA		Pleasanton KBOP 8:30 p.m.
Bennettsville WBSC 6:35 p.m.		Rosenberg KFRD 9:00 a.m.
State College WMAJ 9:00 a.m.		San Angelo KGKL 1:30 p.m.
(EDT)		San Antonio KMAC 8:00 a.m.
Charleston WOKE 2:30 p.m.		Snyder KSNY 4:35 p.m.
Columbia WCOS 7:30 p.m.		Texarkana KCMC
Florence WJMX 8:00 p.m.		UTAH
Georgetown WGTN 6:35 p.m.		Provo KIXX 3:30 p.m.
(EDT)		VERMONT
Hartsville WHSC 6:35 p.m.		Brattleboro WKVT 1:05 p.m.
Rock Hill WRHI 6:35 p.m.		VIRGINIA
(EDT)		Bristol WFHG 6:35 p.m.
SOUTH DAKOTA		(EDT)
Huron KIJV 5:35 p.m.		Fredericksburg WFVA 8:30 a.m.
Mitchell KORN 5:35 p.m.		Petersburg WSSV 6:35 p.m.
Watertown KWAT 5:30 p.m.		(EDT)
TENNESSEE		Radford WRAD
Athens WJAR 4:35 p.m.		Waynesboro WAYB 6:35 p.m.
Columbia WKRM 1:30 p.m.		(EDT)
Fayetteville WEKR 7:00 p.m.		WASHINGTON
Jackson WTJS 1:30 p.m.		Mt. Vernon KBRC 9:30 a.m.
Johnson City WETB 1:30 p.m.		Omak KOMW 9:15 a.m.
Lexington WDXL 1:00 p.m.		Walla Walla KTEL 3:30 p.m.
Morristown WCRK 9:35 p.m.		Wenatchee KUEN 10:15 a.m.
Murfreesboro WGNs		
McMinnville WBMC 1:30 p.m.		

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WEST VIRGINIA

Fairmont WTCS 2:30 p.m.
Logan WLOG 6:35 p.m.
(EDT)
Montgomery WMON 6:35 p.m.
(EDT)

New

Martinsville .. WETZ 1:00 p.m.
Parkersburg WTAP 8:00 a.m.
(Saturday)
St. Albans WKLC 9:30 a.m.
Wheeling WKWK 9:00 p.m.
Williamson WBTH 5:35 p.m.

WISCONSIN

Beloit WGEZ 4:35 p.m.
Fond du Lac KFIZ 4:35 p.m.
Green Bay WDUZ 1:30 p.m.
Madison WIBA 8:00 a.m.
Manitowoc WOMT 4:35 p.m.
Oshkosh WOSH 1:30 p.m.
Poynette WIBU 4:35 p.m.
Reedsburg WRDB 4:35 p.m.

Waupaca WDUX 2:30 p.m.
Wausau WSAU 9:00 a.m.

WYOMING

Casper WTKO 9:15 a.m.
Douglas KWIV 1:30 p.m.
Thermopolis .. KTTH 1:30 p.m.

FOREIGN

BERMUDA

Pembroke ZBM 1:30 p.m.

CANAL ZONE

Panama

City HOG 1:00 p.m.
(Tuesday)
Colon HOK 8:30 a.m.
(Wednesday)

CANADA

Blind
River, Ont. CJNR 10:15 a.m.
Toronto, Ont. ... CKEY 9:15 a.m.
Weyburn, Sask. CFSL 6:15 p.m.
Winnipeg, Man. CKY 11:00 p.m.
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Manila DZAQ 7:30 a.m.

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February 4

Mr. Harvey Pearson
Wichita Falls, Texas
Dear Harvey:

I would like to take this opportunity to give you my opinion of the new HERALD OF TRUTH series that started on Channel 3 last Sunday morning.

I think the production on the first show that I saw Sunday as well as the audition print is very good. The subject material was presented in a new way and very effectively. As we all know, a new approach is necessary in the television field for religious programs. I think the technique used in this series will be accepted very well by the televieing public. The individuals playing the various parts in the series are well adapted and in general it was a very good, enjoyable program.

Last Sunday was the first of this new series, and we naturally have not received any comment from the public; that takes a little bit more time. As soon as we hear any comment, I will let you know.

I just wanted to let you know personally that I thought it was a good program.

Sincerely,

Warren Silver

Account Executive

WPDX Television, Channel 3

Wichita Falls, Texas

DID YOUR BAPTISM TAKE?

By E. R. HARPER

ABC and MBS Networks

Radio Sermon No. 427

April 3, 1960

"Did Your Baptism Take?" may seem to you a rather foolish subject to discuss, but when you understand my meaning, I feel you will be appreciative of the thought I have in mind. There are two distinct realms in which I shall view this question today. The first is that of acceptance with God; and second, its meaning to you when you were baptized. If you, as I shall establish in this discussion, understood that baptism to the penitent was for the remission of your sins; if you understood that Christ promised salvation to those who believe and are baptized; if you obey it that you may become His child; added by the Lord to His church, then your baptism was accepted of the Lord and your name enrolled in heaven. You never have to be baptized again. If, however, you were not baptized for the remission of your sins; that you might be saved and added to the church, the house of God; but changed God's purpose of baptism, and were baptized because you claimed you were already saved; already a child of God; then I fear your baptism did not 'take with the Lord' for you changed the purpose of God in giving this command. That kind of baptism is a 'perverted baptism' for the design has been changed. What you need is 'Bible baptism.'

Now, if you have received Scriptural baptism; if you have been 'buried with Christ' in baptism for the remission of sins, for Bible baptism is a 'burial and a resurrection,' Colossians 2:12, then the next part of my lesson applies to you; namely, did your baptism take with you; that is, have you, since your baptism, measured up to what God had in mind for you beyond the water's edge, or have you fallen far short of His expectations of you? This is what I mean by the question, "Did Your Baptism Take?" Have you become since your baptism, what God designed for you as you emerge from its watery grave?

ITS IMPORTANCE ILLUSTRATED

The importance of baptism is sealed by such passages as Matthew 28:18-20 where Christ commands them to "go teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." It is further demonstrated by Christ's command in Mark 16:15-16 where He commands, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. But he that believeth not shall be damned." Here it is given for every creature in all the world. The importance of baptism is further demonstrated in the fact that three thousand on Pentecost, Acts chapter two, were baptized that his sins might be 'washed away'; the 'eunuch', Acts 8:35-39, stop for the remission of sins; that Saul of Tarsus, Acts 22:16, was baptized.

ped the chariot, demanding baptism; and the jailor, Acts 16:33-34, was baptized the very same hour of the night; midnight. Every person enrolled among the saved from Acts, chapter two, through Acts, chapter nineteen, was baptized; Jerusalem, Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia; Macedonia, Rome, Colossus. There is no exception.

WHAT WAS IN YOUR MIND WHEN BAPTIZED?

May I ask what was your conception of baptism when you were baptized? Were you baptized with the idea in mind that baptism, to the proper subject, was only for the remission of past sins, that you might be saved? Did you not also understand being baptized bound upon you further obligations and brought to you promises of blessings that the unbaptized person could never enjoy? Now baptism to a penitent, is for the remission of past sins, but if this is all one understands or is ever caused to understand, with respect to the design of baptism, no wonder so many fall by the way-side and never bring forth fruit to perfection. If this is all you have ever learned about God's design for baptism, what an inadequate, insufficient understanding of God's place of baptism in his great scheme of redemption! The lack of understanding with respect to God's greater purpose for our being baptized, is manifested in the inactivities of the members of his church; in the heartaches of her leaders; and in the woeful neglect of our missionary zeal in carrying the gospel to the lost of this earth. Baptism in its greater design is but a stepping stone to a greater, to a fuller, and to a more glorious life in the service of our Master.

ROMANS 6:3-7

May I now read to you Paul's own words found in your Bible as recorded in Romans 6:3-7? "How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in NEWNESS OF LIFE. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be able also in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. FOR, he that is DEAD is FREED FROM SIN."

In this reading is found one of the most profound and one of the most beautiful of all pictures and explanations of God's purpose for placing baptism in His great scheme of man's redemption from sin! Just how man can read this and then declare baptism to be a sprinkling or a pouring; just how man can read this and then brand baptism as nonessential, telling people they do not have to be baptized to enjoy all these blessings mentioned here, is a mystery to me that I just can't explain. In the absence of a single passage in all the New Testa-

ment of either a command for, or an example of, sprinkling for baptism, knowing the Bible plainly says, "Therefore we are buried with him by BAPTISM into death," I just can't understand why man arrogates to himself the right to so change God's order of things and substitute his own. Our question now is, what blessings and obligations follow this 'burial' in baptism? This understood correctly and all doubt of baptism's being essential to man's salvation, should forever be settled.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

I should appreciate hearing from you preachers who may be listening to me today; hearing your explanation concerning the questions I am to ask just here, for in the answer to these questions, is found the answer to the importance of baptism, and our blessings beyond our resurrection from the watery grave.

- 1) Question one: What does it mean to be 'baptized into Christ'?
- 2) Question two: What does it mean to be 'baptized into the death of Christ'?
- 3) Question three: What does it mean to be 'baptized into death'?
- 4) Question four: What does the expression 'he that is dead is freed from sin', in verse seven mean?

These questions answered correctly and there looms upon our horizon of religious dogmas a truth so beautiful that man shall wonder how and why he was so deceived concerning the importance of this most beautiful and sacred command of God. This one thing to remember in our study of this lesson: The blessings in all four of these questions are to be enjoyed only AFTER BAPTISM, and only by the person who has been 'buried' in the act of baptism, as stated here in our lesson of Romans chapter six and verses two through seven.

WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

I shall now take these questions, one by one, to ascertain their meaning and to correctly arrive at the truth concerning the all-inclusive importance of God as attached to man's being baptized. Baptism, as most of us know, is one of the religious battle grounds upon which has been and shall continue to be fought many battles. Much of the religious world is declaring that man does not have to obey God's command in His world-wide commission to be baptized, though it came from the very lips of our Savior. We of the church of Christ shall continue to believe and teach what the Bible says, that baptism is essential to man's enjoying the blessings promised in the Great Commission of Mark 16:16 where it declares "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" and of his enjoying the blessings spoken of by Paul, recorded in your Bible here in Romans 6:2-17. We believe and respect the Bible as God's word and His commands as binding upon man today, else why would He have given them? The Bible is our guide! We intend to be governed by it or by nothing at all, in the field of religion. It is either

God's orders to man, for man to follow; or it is not. Believing it to be God's revelation to man, I cannot do otherwise than obey it and teach my fellow man to do the same. If this is not safe, then please tell me what is safe? Why have your Bible? Why try to make people believe we are governed by it and that we accept it, if we are going to change it; mutilate it; or substitute for its commands our commands; for its laws, our laws? We shall not!

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Now in verse three Paul says plainly, 'they', were "baptized INTO CHRIST." No efforts to change this or to make it read otherwise than stated here by Paul, shall ever be able to make Romans 6:3 read any way, other than "Know ye not that so many of us as were BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST, were baptized into his death." Hence, man, to enjoy this blessing of being 'in Christ', whatever this may mean, has to be baptized, for it specifically declares they were all 'baptized into Christ.' Object to it; try to explain it away; declare to the world they may enjoy this blessing without baptism, if you care to, but when all is said and done, your Bible will still read, 'baptized into Christ.' Why not just believe God's word and obey it that you may be certain of the blessings therein promised?

WHAT IT MEANS

Now just what does it mean to be 'baptized into Christ'? There must be some sensible explanation to this or the Holy Spirit, through Paul would never have written it. To be 'in Christ' is to be a 'new creature'. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul, this same writer says, "if any man be in Christ he is a new creature." This new creature has the same meaning as a 'new creation'; a 'new-born child.' It is the same as John 3:3-5 where man has to be 'born again' to enter into the 'kingdom of God.' When one is 'born again'; when one becomes a 'new creature'; when one becomes a 'child of God' it is then he partakes of the 'divine nature.' Peter says in 2 Peter 1:4, "Whereby are given unto US exceeding great and precious promises, that by these YE might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." Man 'out of Christ' cannot partake of this divine nature. This we must all admit! We become His children; we become this 'new creature'; we become 'partakers of this divine nature; that we may become 'conformed to the image of God's dear Son.' Paul, this same writer, says of this in Romans 8:29, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS DEAR SON, that he might be the first born among many brethren." Friends, man out of Christ can't become 'conformed to the image of Christ.' Again, in 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul declares, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might become the righteousness of God in him - that is in Christ." Out of Christ, man can't be the righteousness of God. Now all these blessings are 'in

Christ Jesus.' We must conclude therefore that when Paul says these at Rome had all been 'baptized into Christ,' he was pointing out to them the utter futility of trying to go back under the yoke of sin, from which, now having been 'baptized into Christ,' they have been freed? Dear friends, can you be saved without becoming this new creature? Can you be saved without becoming partaker of this divine nature? Can you be saved without being conformed to the very image of God's dear son? Can you be saved without becoming the 'righteousness of God'? Can you be saved without being 'in Christ' where all of these are found? If not, then baptism stands between you and all these blessings, for your Bible plainly and specifically declares we are 'baptized into Christ' where we become all the things I have read to you.

DID IT TAKE?

I am now ready to ask you, Did Your Baptism Take? By this I mean have you actually become this new creature? or are you still living as you were? Have you become a partaker of the divine nature of our Lord? or are you still living after the nature of the world, as before? Are you truly being 'transformed into the image of God's dear Son?' or are you still retaining the image of the old man? Have you truly become the 'righteousness of God' or are you still living the life you lived before you became a Christian? THIS, is what I mean by my subject today; Did Your Baptism Take? The blessings to be enjoyed by baptism, look not just back to the remission of our past sins only; to our salvation from the guilt of sin only; its design and purpose do not stop here: the blessings of baptism likewise look 'forward,' to what we are expected to become 'after' we have obeyed this beautiful and sacred act, as pictured here by Paul with this all inclusive design of baptism. The failure to be baptized, therefore, deprives you of both the forgiveness of your past sins, and the future joys and blessings of being conformed to the image of God's Son. You cannot be saved, if either of these blessings are not yours to enjoy. Yes, again I say, if your only conception of baptism, when you entered the water, and since coming from the water, was the forgiveness of past sins and membership in the church of the Lord, I fear your baptism did not 'take on you,' as it should. Our failure to understand God's full and all inclusive purpose of baptism is one of the great reasons why so many are today unfaithful; who now live in cities and towns and communities, dead to the Lord and His church. After baptism they never became like the 'image of God's son;' they never became truly the 'righteousness of God;' the 'divine nature of the Lord' was never allowed to grow up into a full and complete man in Christ. Your Bible places all these blessings beyond the water's edge. If you can be saved without these blessings, then pay no attention to your Bible, but since you must have them to be saved, then do what these in Rome did, for they obeyed their Lord. That they were 'buried with their Lord by baptism' is one thing we know.

If you have never been baptized then these blessings are not yours to enjoy, though you may lay claim to them, based upon your feelings. They come only to those who have done what these in Rome did. Again, if your baptism is not a scriptural baptism, these blessings cannot be yours to have. You must be baptized scripturally!

CONCLUSION

I close this lesson today by saying to you that Paul's letter to the Roman Christians was not to convince them that baptism was essential to salvation; this they already knew! He, therefore, was but calling to their attention this fact that he might get over to them his lesson against sin. After having been 'baptized into Christ,' they were trying to go back into the bondage of sin again. Paul is pleading with them not to go back into that way of life, knowing now, that they had been 'baptized into Christ'; that they had been 'raised to walk in newness of life;' and are now 'partakers of his divine nature.' Yes, baptism was the line of demarcation between their old life of sin and this new life of righteousness in Christ Jesus. Will you not come today as one who believes in Christ, repenting of your sins and be buried with your Lord in baptism, that you, like these at Rome, may walk in newness of life; may be in Christ where you may be conformed to the image of God's son; where you may become the righteousness of God in Christ, is my prayer in the name of Christ our Lord.

~

September 28, 1959

Elders,
Highland Church of Christ,
Abilene, Texas.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is check for \$10.00 to support Christian teaching via TV. This is a wonderful program and I am grateful I can help in a small way. I wish it could be broadcast every day instead of once a week—how we need the truth.

A Christian Friend,

Mrs. P. H. (W.) U.
October 1, 1959.

Dear Sirs:

You know I would hate to look my maker in the face having turned down such a worthy call as this, if I could help. I am past 82 years, but have never seen nor heard of any one going bankrupt in helping the Lord's work.

Yours in Christ,
J. H. M.,
Route No. 3,

THE CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Radio Sermon No. 428

April 10, 1960

Thank you, and greetings friends of ours across the nation and in many other countries where this program is being heard. How about sitting down right after this program is over and dropping us a card asking for these sermons and letting us know just how far away you are? It is always so good to hear from you.

Today I am concluding the lesson on "Did Your Baptism Take?" as we discuss the subject announced, "The Crucified With Christ." In this lesson we shall find who the "Crucified With Christ" are, as we answer the remaining questions of our lesson.

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

We found that in Romans 6:3 to be 'baptized into Christ' is to become a 'new creature;' that a penitent believer being 'baptized into Christ' is equivalent to being 'born again;' that we are baptized into Christ for the purpose of being 'conformed to the image of God's dear Son;' that it is to 'become the righteousness of God;' that, by such blessings, we might 'become partakers of his divine nature,' as found in 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5; Romans 8:29; and 2 Peter 1:4. These are blessings and characteristics, without which no man can be saved. But these are blessings that come to the 'baptized believer' and to no one else, as taught by Paul in Romans 6:2-17.

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST'S DEATH

Our question for today begins with, "What does it mean to be baptized into the death of Christ?" You will remember Paul says in Romans 6:3, "know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death." Now Paul does not have in mind here just the forgiveness of 'past sins' alone. His lesson in Romans 6, concerning baptism so far transcends the limited idea of baptism being just for the remission of the guilt of past sins, that one stands in awe as he gazes into the unlimited blessings one, who believes the gospel, is to enjoy in obeying this beautiful burial and resurrection with his Master, in baptism. Baptism looks two ways: It looks back to the forgiveness of past sins; it looks forward to a new life, free from the old 'life of sin,' a life dedicated unto the righteousness of

his Lord. It truly is the 'line of demarcation' between the 'old life of sin' and the 'new life,' that 'resurrected life' with Christ our Lord.

WHAT IT IMPLIES

For one to truly be 'baptized into the death of Christ' he must be willing to suffer -- sacrifice -- and to carry his cross of burdens with his Lord. In Matthew 16:24, Christ says "if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take UP his CROSS and follow me." In Mark 10:38-39, Christ asks, "are ye able to drink the cup that I drink? or to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" referring to His crucifixion on Calvary. They answered, "We are able." And Jesus said unto them, "The Cup that I drink ye shall drink; and with the baptism I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized", this signifying the sufferings they would undergo as followers of His. In Timothy 2:5-6, Paul says, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Who GAVE HIMSELF a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." This eliminates Mary as a mediator between God and men, your Bible being true, for here your Bible says there is 'one mediator' and that is Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 2:9 your Bible says that Christ, "TASTED DEATH for every man."

From these passages we should catch a glimpse of what it means to be 'baptized into the death of Christ.' It begins a new life; a life of sacrificial giving of ourselves to the cause of the Lord. Again, I ask, did your baptism take? or have you missed the beauty of its meaning as was contemplated in the mind of our Savior when His Spirit guided Paul to say that, "so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were also baptized into his death"?

Tell me, my friends, that baptism is nonessential: that man may reach these blessings 'in Christ' without being 'baptized into his death' as your Bible plainly declares? These blessings being necessary to our salvation, as Paul shows here they are, then one thing as certain as I am talking to you, one must be baptized to receive them. Blot baptism from God's plan of salvation and you rob man of these marvelous blessings in Christ Jesus. Teach men they may enjoy them without being 'baptized into Christ' and 'into His death,' as your Bible word for word, teaches? Never! Honestly now, seeing the greater design of baptism in God's scheme of things, do you think your baptism resulted in the desired effect that God purposed that it should when you walked from the watery grave? Yes, I ask, Did Your Baptism Take, really?

TO CHRISTIANS

To those of you who have been 'baptized into Christ' (for no others may enjoy these blessings here in Romans 6:3-7 but those who have been 'buried with their Lord by baptism into death'), have you been

willing to sacrifice for the cause of the Lord as you should? Do you bring your children to Bible study? Are you striving to build up the church where you live? Do you honestly give sacrificially of your time and money as commanded by your Lord in the Bible? Or are you the one always finding fault with the elders and preacher because they are never satisfied; always wanting you to do more and give as prospered? If your baptism had resulted in the desired effect that Christ purposed that it should, would you not be in the forefront, striving to build up the church; trying to send the gospel to millions lost today? instead of being the chronic grumbler of the congregation?

Too many may have just looked upon the benefits of baptism to penitent believers in a selfish way, as bringing them the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ; never having seen the 'future designs and blessings' that God gave to us, who as penitent believers were, 'baptized into His death.' Baptism is the line of demarcation between the lost man out of Christ and the saved man who has been 'baptized into Christ' and by so doing has been 'baptized into his death.'

It will also be remembered that it was in the 'death of Christ' that He shed His blood for the remission of our sins. In John 19:33-34 your Bible says, "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs. However, one of the soldiers with a spear peirced his side, and straight way there came out blood and water." Since the blood of Christ was shed in His death, then to reach the atoning power of His blood one must come into this death. This being true then baptism stands between the sinner and his salvation by the blood of Christ for your Bible says, we are 'baptized into his death,' Romans 6:3. It is possible that such a beautiful command as this; a command which to a proper subject for baptism, puts him into the death of Christ, is to be held up in ridicule by man, by calling it 'filthy rags'? Remember it was in His death He shed His blood. We are 'baptized into His death.' Therefore, if one fails to be baptized, he fails to reach this death of Christ where the atoning blood of God's dear Son becomes the redemption price for his soul. O, yes, it is the blood of Christ that redeems; not the waters of baptism, but the blood of Christ redeems only those who reach the death of Christ where this atoning blood was shed and your Bible says we are 'baptized into His death.'

BAPTIZED INTO DEATH

Now in verse 4 Paul introduces another most vital truth. It is here he brings forth one of his most convincing arguments presented to the church at Rome. In verse four he says, 'therefore we are buried with him -- not sprinkled with him -- buried with him by baptism INTO DEATH.' Not just into the death of Christ, but into DEATH ITSELF. Now why? "That like as Christ was raised up by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." All therefore

STATIONS CARRYING HERALD OF TRUTH TELEVISION PROGRAMS

CITY	STATION	CHANNEL	TIME	CITY	STATION	CHANNEL	TIME
ALABAMA				KANSAS			
Birmingham	WBRC	6	(Wednesday)	Topeka	WIBW-TV	16	12:30 p.m.
Decatur	WMSL-TV			Wichita	KARD-TV	3	11:00 a.m.
Huntsville	WASG			KENTUCKY			
Mobile	WALA-TV			Louisville	WAVE	3	
Montgomery	WCOV	11:30 a.m.	(Thursday)	Paducah	WPSD-TV	6	
ALASKA				LOUISIANA			
Fairbanks	KFAR			Shreveport	KSLA-TV		
ARIZONA				MAINE			
Tucson	KOLD-TV	13		Portland	WCSH-TV	6	10:30 a.m.
CALIFORNIA				MICHIGAN			
Bakersfield	KOID	17	2:30 p.m.	Detroit	KCLW-TV		
Sacramento				MISSISSIPPI			
Stockton	KOVR	13	9:00 a.m.	Greenwood	WAOGT	6	3:30 p.m.
San Francisco	KGO	7	9:15 a.m.	Jackson	WJTV	12	
COLORADO				Meridian	WTOK-TV	12:00 noon	(Saturday)
Colorado Springs	KRDO	13	3:00 p.m.	Tupelo	WTWV-TV	9	2:00 p.m.
Denver	KBT	12:30		MISSOURI			
Grand Junction	KREX-TV			Jefferson	KRCG-TV	13	2:00 p.m.
FLORIDA				Joplin	KODE-TV	12	
Palm Beach	WDTV			Springfield	KYTV	3	
Panama City Beach	WJDM-TV			St. Joseph	KFETV	2	4:00 p.m.
Tallahassee	WCTV	6	8:00 a.m.	St. Louis	KTVI	5	9:30 a.m.
GEORGIA				MONTANA			
Columbus	WSAV-TV	3		Butte	KXLF-TV	4	(Non-schedule)
Savannah	WCTV	6	8:00 a.m.	Helena	KXIL-TV	12	(Non-Schedule)
Thomasville				Missoula	KMSO	3:30 p.m.	
IDAHO				NEBRASKA			
Nampa	KCIX-TV	6	4:00 p.m.	North Platte	KNOP	13	12:30 p.m.
ILLINOIS				NEVADA			
Harrisburg	WSIL-TV	3	2:00 p.m. (Wednesday)	Las Vegas	KLAS	8	
Quincy	WGEM-TV	10	1:30 p.m.	NEW YORK			
INDIANA				Buffalo	WKBW	7	
Indianapolis	WTTV			New York City	WPIX	13	12:00 p.m. (Saturday)
Terre Haute	WSJV	10	10:00 a.m.				

CITY	STATION	CHANNEL	TIME	CITY	STATION	CHANNEL	TIME
NORTH CAROLINA				TEXAS			
Asheville	WISE	62	6:30 p.m. (Saturday)	Amarillo	KVII	8:30 a.m.	
Asheville	WLOS-TV	13	9:00 a.m.	El Paso	KELP	13	3:30 p.m.
Wilmington	WECT-TV	6		Ft. Worth	KSJV	9:00 a.m.	
NORTH DAKOTA				Harlingen	KGBT-TV	4	
Williston	KUMV-TV	8	4:00 p.m.	San Antonio	WOAI-TV	4	
OHIO				Tyler	KLTV	7	5:00 p.m. (Tuesday)
Cincinnati	WCPO	12	8:00 a.m. (Saturday)	Wichita Falls	KFDX	3	8:30 p.m.
Lima	WIMA-TV	35		UTAH			
OREGON				Provo	KLOR		
Klamath Falls	KOTI	2:30 p.m.		VIRGINIA			
OKLAHOMA				Richmond	WTVR-TV	6	
Ada				Roanoke	WSLS	10	8:00 a.m.
Oklahoma City	KWT	9	8:30 a.m.	Petersburg	WXEX-TV	8	
Tulsa	KVOO-TV	2	12:30 p.m.	WASHINGTON			
PENNSYLVANIA				Richland	KERP		
Johnstown	WJAC			Yawima	KNDO-TV		
SOUTH CAROLINA				WEST VIRGINIA			
Charleston	WUSN	2	12:30 p.m.	Parkersburg	WTAP		
Florence	WBTW	12:00 noon		WISCONSIN			
TENNESSEE				Milwaukee	WITI	6	8:00 p.m.
Chattanooga	WRGP	9: a.m.		WYOMING			
Memphis	WHBQ-TV	13	2:00 p.m.	Casper	KTWO	4:00 p.m.	
Nashville	WSIX	8		FOREIGN			
TEXAS				BERMUDA			
UTAH				Hamilton	ZBMT-TV		
VIRGINIA				CANADA			
WASHINGTON				Moose Jaw, Sask.			
WEST VIRGINIA				PUERTO RICO			
WISCONSIN				Puerto Rico	WORA-TV	5	
WYOMING				NEW ZEALAND			
ALL TIMES ARE SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.				Taurange			

Dear Brother Reese

I am showing this film from house to house, number 100 TV . . . while awaiting a viewing at the local TV station. We showed it last night in Montpelier; one soul obeyed the truth after seeing it. It is a masterpiece.

Would it be possible to purchase this? Someone said the film cost \$50 for each copy. If you could confirm this, and let us know whether we could have this copy or another, would appreciate it.

Christian Love,
Alvin Jennings
Burlington, Vermont

who reach the blessings of verse four are those and only those who are 'buried with him by baptism into death.'

MEANING OF THIS?

The expression 'baptized into death' conveys a different idea, an added blessing that he who is baptized is to enjoy. This can best be understood if we read verse seven where your Bible says, "but he that is dead is freed from sin." That is, the man who has been 'baptized into death' is freed from this old life of sin and is now living a life of righteousness in his Lord.

Before baptism they were living in sin; having now been baptized into death, he is now dead, and being dead he is freed from sin; not just the guilt of sin, but from this old life of sinful practices. He is taken out of, away from that way of sinful living and has been 'raised to walk in newness of life.' Yes, all of his past has been blotted out; forgiven and from all this he is now free. This, my friends, is what he means by 'being baptized into death.' He is now freed from the Devil's crowd and has been added by the Lord to His church, for these in Romans 6:1-17 were the church of the Lord in Rome. Remember this! The man who is 'dead is freed from sin.' But how does man reach this death that he may be freed from sin? Romans 6:4 answers this question, "therefore we ARE (the ever continuing present) we are buried with him by baptism INTO DEATH." No baptism; no death. No death; no freedom from sin. Therefore, man still remains in his old life; is not freed from life until baptized.

AFTER DEATH, THEN WHAT?

Having now been made free from this painful life then what? Paul answers this in verses 18 and 22 where he says "ye became the servants of righteousness;" the 'servants of God;' and their 'fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.' Who enjoys this? Those who have been 'baptized into death;' into this freedom from being the servants of Satan.

This is the very heart of Paul's lesson to them. One of his very first questions to them was this, "How can we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?" Having been 'baptized into Christ;' having been 'baptized into the death of Christ;' yea! having been 'baptized into death' itself by being 'buried with their Lord by baptism into death,' Paul now begs of them, "How can you go back into this old life of sin" from which you have been freed? To whom was Paul writing this? To Christians; those who had been freed from both the guilt of sin and from this life of sin itself also. Why was he writing so to them? To keep them from going back into this old life of sin and being lost, for said he to them in verse 23, "The wages of sin is death; but the

gift of God is eternal life." Yes, they could be lost, if not why this lesson on sin and its death?

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

You are ready to ask me now, What connection does all this have with the subject today "Crucified with Christ?" Let me read to you now Romans six, verses four through six and the connection will be beautifully presented by the Spirit through Paul. It reads, "Therefore we are buried with him (not sprinkled with him, buried with him) by baptism into death; that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together (not sprinkled together, planted together) in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. Knowing THIS, that our old man is CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, THAT the body of SIN might be DESTROYED, THAT henceforth WE should NOT SERVE SIN."

Ah my friends! Here is the 'how' man is CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST! Here is the 'how' man destroys the 'body of sin!' Here is the 'how' man is in the 'likeness of the resurrection of Christ.' Here is the 'how' and the 'when' that 'old man -- the body of sin' is CRUCIFIED and destroyed, that as Christ was crucified and resurrected to a new life, we also are crucified and resurrected from the grave of baptism, into a 'newness of life;' into our 'resurrected life' with our Lord. Man is 'baptized into Christ;' he is 'baptized into the death of Christ;' and is 'baptized into death' itself and from this death he arises a new life; a new man; a resurrected man; a man born again; a new creature, walking in this 'newness of life.' This new creature; this newness of life; this new man; lives not until he is 'resurrected -- raised in baptism' from this death in the 'likeness' of the glorious resurrection of Christ. Yes, these at Rome had been 'crucified with Christ!' They had been 'buried with Christ' by baptism. They had been 'resurrected with Christ;' They are now 'walking in newness of life' as contrasted with the 'old life of sin' from which they have now been freed. Baptism again is the 'line of demarcation' -- No baptism; no burial; no burial with Christ; no resurrection; no resurrection; no newness of life; no newness of life; no freedom from sin; no crucifixion with Christ, for the 'old body of sins' would not have been 'crucified with Christ' that they should no longer serve sin. CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST! Yes, THIS is the 'how' and the 'when' that crucifixion with Him takes place that we may be raised with Him in newness of life. Beautiful is this picture! And to think, your Bible made 'baptism' the very center of it all! The line of demarcation!

We see now what it means to be 'baptized into Christ;' to be 'baptized into his death;' and what it means to be 'baptized into death' itself. We now see who, how, and why we are 'crucified with Christ.' All of this is that man may be free, not just from the guilt of past

sins only, but from this entire life of sin, and the 'end everlasting life.' Now may I ask you who have been scripturally baptized, "Did Your Baptism Take", in that you have become what God expected of you after your baptism? If scripturally baptized, you do not have to be 'rebaptized.' You need to return to your Lord and begin living this life, free from the ways of sin, that you may become like the Son of God, a servant of righteousness. This is the design Christ had for baptism as we arise from its watery grave to walk that 'newness of life.' Do you not think my lesson today worth while? Then write for it and follow the truths I have presented to you from your Bible. Remember we are 'baptized into death.' No burial by baptism; no death; no death; no crucifixion; no crucifixion with Christ; no living with Him; no eternal life.

Yes, baptism is the 'line of demarcation' between the 'old way of sin' and the 'new life of true holiness.' We are 'buried with Him by baptism into death' and 'raised with Him to the newness of life.' This done and we are 'crucified with Christ.' Will you not come today believing in the Christ of Calvary; repenting of every sin; and confessing His blessed name, be 'buried with him by baptism into death' that you may be 'freed from both the guilt of sin and from this entire sinful life,' the wages of which is death, is my prayer in the name of Christ our Lord.

~

January 13, 1960

The Elders
Highland Avenue Church of Christ
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brethren:

We are aware of your need for additional funds to help defray the expenses of the HERALD OF TRUTH television program.

We have seen the pilot film in which Brother Baxter is the principal speaker and we believe that such a format is destined to accomplish much good for our Master, if this type program is shown, as we believe it will be, to millions of people.

We would like to have a small part in this worthy effort.

Persuant to our decision, we herewith enclose a check for twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) from the Ruston Church of Christ.

We expect to contribute this amount each month for as long as we consider it feasible. We understand, and we are sure that you also understand, that our action in this matter is purely voluntary on our part.

Faithfully yours,
Elders,
Ruston Church of Christ
302 West California
Ruston, Louisiana

THE FILTHY RAGS OF ISAIAH 64:6

By E. R. HARPER

ABC and MBS Networks

Radio Sermon No. 429

April 17, 1960

Thank you and greetings friends of ours around the world. Our lesson for today is one that I feel should be discussed honestly, yet frankly. All my life, as far back as I can remember, I have heard men call what we do; the righteous commandments of God that we obey; 'filthy rags.' I deny the Bible teaches any such doctrine. Isaiah 64:6 has been used out of context and by so doing men have "wrested the scriptures to their own destruction," as declared by Peter in 2 Peter 3:16. The apostle in his second epistle, chapter three and verse 16 speaking of the writings of Paul by the Spirit has this to say, "Even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the OTHER SCRIPTURES, unto their OWN DESTRUCTION." This is the same thought Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Galatians in Galatians 1:6-7 saying to them, "There be some that trouble you, and would PERVERT the gospel of Christ."

Now this is exactly what is being done today with the scriptures. That certain dogmas may be upheld, the blessed word of God, is being "wrested;" it is being "perverted;" men are turning from the truth; sound doctrine is rejected. The commands of God are referred to as "filthy rags." God has never issued commands that are to Him as "filthy rags" when obeyed by man from an honest heart.

ISAIAH 64:6

In Isaiah 64:6 the prophet says "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Now I press the question, why was all their righteousness as 'filthy rags'? It was because they were offering them up to God while living in open rebellion to him as a people. The next verse says "and there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee." They were offering their worship and sacrifices unto God while openly living in rebellion to him; refusing to call upon his name; none who would take hold of God; their iniquities had taken them away from God. Now in this condition, no act of theirs would be acceptable. Any act offered to God under such conditions, now as well as then, would come up before God as rags of filth.

THE RIGHTEOUS NOT SO

That you may know this is the meaning of the prophet we have but to read the verses before this. In verses four through five this same prophet says "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. Thou MEETEST him that rejoiceth and WORKETH RIGHTEOUS, those that remember thee in thy ways."

THE CONTRAST

Now there are two groups. Both groups offer unto God righteousness. The righteousness offered by one group is as 'filthy rags;' the righteousness offered by the other group causes the Lord to 'meet them' and to 'prepare for them' that which they had never seen nor heard. Why this difference on the part of God?

The correct answer to this and all this tirade we are hearing, branding our obedience to God's righteous commands as 'filthy rags' shall vanish from before our understanding as the proverbial snowball in an August sun.

The reason for the first group's righteousness being as 'filthy rags' in God's sight was because they thought to offer them unto Him while in their iniquities. Listen to the prophet as he continues in chapter sixty-five, beginning with verse two, "I have stretched out my hands all the day unto a REBELLIOUS people, which WALKETH in a WAY that was NOT GOOD, after their OWN THOUGHTS; a people that PROVOKETH ME to ANGER CONTINUALLY to MY FACE; that SACRIFICETH in gardens, and BURNETH INCENSE upon altars of brick; which remain among the graves, and lodge in the mountains, which eat SWINE'S FLESH, and BROTH OF ABOMINABLE THINGS is in their vessels; which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am HOLIER THAN THOU. These are a SMOKE IN MY NOSE, a fire that burneth all the day. Behold it is written all the day, I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense unto their bosom, your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the Lord, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and BLASPHEMED ME UPON THE HILLS: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom." This was why the righteous acts offered by them unto God were before Him as 'filthy rags.'

Millions now and who have passed on have heard men quote Isaiah 64:6 and apply it to honest hearts who were obeying the sacred commands of Christ, calling such humble obedience as 'filthy rags' without ever knowing the setting in which this statement was found. The reason their righteousness was before God as 'filthy rags' was the simple fact they were offering such acts of righteousness to Him while living in rebellion to Him, as though they were clean and pure in His sight. They were offering them while blaspheming God on every hill. It was not the righteous commands of God, given for them to observe,

that were as 'filthy rags.' It was their offering them to God, as though there was nothing wrong with them; as though God was condoning their iniquities; as though God was pleased with them in their iniquitous state.

TRUTH WE MUST LEARN

God rejects two kinds of acts. He rejects 'our own acts of righteousness,' which acts are not commanded of Him, as stated by Paul Romans 10:2, where Israel has gone about to 'establish their own righteousness' but not 'according to knowledge;' that is, not given by the Lord; and He also rejects our offering to Him His righteous commands, commanded of Him, while we are blaspheming Him by our rebellious acts as a people of His. All this comes up to Him as 'filthy rags.' This is quite contrary to offering up to Him righteous commands while being submissive to His will.

We know this is true for the second class just mentioned in our lesson, found in Isaiah 64:5 was offering righteousness unto God and their righteousness was not as 'filthy rags' but came up to Him as pleasing and acceptable. So much so that your Bible says "for since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for thee. Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness; those that remember thee in many ways." Remember, these are in the same chapter. Why this difference? The first class was living in iniquity; the second class was 'remembering God in His ways.' this is the difference!

YOUR BIBLE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Let us see further just what our Bible has to say about those who observe to do the righteous commands of God. Let us see God's reaction toward them. In Deuteronomy 6:24-25, Moses says, "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. AND it shall be OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, if we observe to do ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us." Here is a lesson we must not fail to understand. Obeying the statutes of God; DOING ALL THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, your Bible says "shall be as our righteousness." The only way therefore man becomes righteous is by OBSERVING TO DO THE RIGHTEOUS COMMANDS OF GOD, for then God's righteousness is bestowed upon us and becomes in the Bible sense, our righteousness. By this we have on the 'righteousness of God' and in His way God's righteousness becomes 'our righteousness.' Now these commands obeyed by Israel in Isaiah 64:5 were not as 'filthy rags' but actually came up before God, pleasing to Him and were accounted to Israel as 'their righteousness.' Let the men who are calling the commands of God as 'filthy rags' deal with this!

DAVID TESTIFIES

Again David, the sweet singer of Israel says in Psalms 3:4-5, "offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord." Again, Psalms 33:4-5, "He loveth righteousness and judgement." After David had prayed the prayer of penitent dedication, recorded in Psalms 51, he says in verses 17 and 19, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" -- "Then shalt thou be pleased with sacrifices of righteousness." When, David, are our acts of righteousness pleasing to God? When offered from 'broken and contrite hearts.' Not from rebellious souls, blaspheming God on every hill as was Israel in Isaiah 64:6. Such acts still come up before God as 'filthy rags.' But again your Bible says in Psalms 106:3, "Blessed are they that keep judgement, and he that DOETH RIGHTEOUSNESS at ALL TIMES." Blessed are whom? Those who "do righteousness." This is something we do! Ah, my friends, Is God saying 'blessed are they who offer unto me FILTHY RAGS?' To brand the righteous commands of God, when obeyed by honest men as 'filthy rags.' in God's sight, is blasphemy against the righteousness of God. Let us be ashamed and ask God to forgive, if such we have ever done.

HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE RIGHTEOUSNESS

My friends, if you have thought the commandments of God as 'filthy rags' then listen to your Bible again. In Psalms 119:172 it reads, and your Bible is right, "My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of thy word: for ALL THY COMMANDMENTS ARE RIGHTEOUSNESS." IN I John 3:7, the Bible says "He that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." Again in I John 2:29 John says "He that doeth righteousness is born of God." David said "All thy commandments are RIGHTEOUSNESS." Therefore, those who do the commandments of God are righteous; they are 'born of God.' The only way therefore man can be righteous in God's sight is by obeying the righteous commands of God. Explain to me how man becomes righteous by doing absolutely nothing!

But hear your Bible again; this time the 23rd Psalms, verse one through three, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS for his name sake." We have found that righteousness is something we do. Would the Shepherd of the 23rd Psalm lead men to offer up to God 'rags of filth' to be rejected of him? How men should bow their heads in shame for calling the righteous commands of God, when obeyed by humble hearts, as 'filthy rags.' God leads us to do them. But again, from the Old Testament, in which we find Isaiah 64:6 recorded, is from Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people." These are something men do. The one exalteth, the other brings the reproach of God upon them. Does

offering that which is as 'filthy rags' to God exalt a nation? If not, then obeying the righteous commands of God is not as 'filthy rags' unto God, for such 'exalts a nation.'

In Matthew 3:15 we have the baptism of Christ. You know baptism is one of the righteous commands of the Lord that is branded as 'filthy rags'. When Christ came to John to be baptized of John, John refused and Christ said to him, "Suffer it to be so now; for it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him" -- that is, John baptized Christ. Now, I ask you men, Was this baptism of Christ as 'filthy rags'? Did it come up to His father as 'rags of filth'? Was He rejected of His Father as was Israel in Isaiah 64:6? Here Christ placed baptism in God's righteousness to be obeyed by all, even by Christ Himself. It no longer can be said to be 'man's righteousness,' which comes up to God as 'filthy rags' for Christ has placed it in the realm of God's righteousness and said it 'becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.' It does not become man to offer 'filthy rags' up to God! Are you ready now to call the baptism of Christ as 'filthy rags'?

WHAT ARE THESE RAGS OF FILTH?

Just here is a good time to ask what is meant by these 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6? Were they acceptable unto God? or did He reject them? My good people, that which comes up to God as 'filthy rags' is loathsome to Him. I ask you to read Adam Clark on this and then you will have your eyes opened as never before. I can't read it to you over radio. Take it to your preacher and ask him to explain how your obedience unto God's righteous commands can be as such rags of filth. Read other scholars on this. If you do not have them, write us and we will mail it to you.

Can't you see now how men have 'wrested this passage;' how they have 'perverted' it that they might uphold the doctrine of 'salvation by faith only without any further acts of obedience?' By such accusations against the commands of God they have eliminated the beautiful act of baptism commanded of the Lord; they have eliminated membership in the church He built; they have eliminated our communion with the Lord around His table; and have eliminated the necessity of man's having to live a righteous life, by branding all such as 'our righteousness' and then calling them 'filthy rags.' They are 'God's righteousness.' They come from God! He never gave anything that was as 'filthy rags' for man to do or be. Let men deceive you into believing you will be lost by surrendering to God's righteous commands if you must, but we shall uphold His commands as pure for Psalms 19:8 says "the commandment of the Lord is pure;" "not filthy rags." Those who submit to them shall be likewise pure.

May God bless you that you may submit today to the righteous commands of the Lord, coming believing in Christ, repenting of your sins, and being baptized as the Lord commands, and He will add you to His church, in my prayer in His holy name.

ARE THESE FILTHY RAGS?

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Radio Sermon No. 430

April 24, 1960

Friends, I appreciate more than words can express your willingness to listen to our lessons brought to you each week by this broadcast. I realize they are different. The church of Christ is different. It has a distinct plea. We believe the commands of God are pure, as declares the Psalmist David in Psalms 19:8. We deny that obedience unto the commands of God by honest hearts, for the purpose God gave them, is as 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6. God gave them for our good, Deuteronomy 10:13. God's commands, when obeyed by consecrated men, always prove a blessing. Man is never degraded; is never cursed; but always lifted up by submitting to God's commands. The disregard for God's commands; the teaching men they do not have to obey God's righteous commands to be saved, is why you have Godless Russia today; is why you have seventy million adults drinking intoxicating liquor; is why we have some five to ten million alcoholics; is why crime in our country is costing some twenty billion dollars or more yearly; is why millions of you today will not darken a church building. You have been told the commands of God, if we have to obey them, are like 'filthy rags.' If God's commands were as the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6, men would not be blessed by obeying them. God cursed the people of Isaiah 64:6; read Isaiah 65:15. In 1 Samuel 15:22 we read, "behold to obey is better than sacrifice: and to hearken than the fat of rams, for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." To refuse to obey is rebellion, my people; it is as stubbornness, which to God is as iniquity. Christ said in Matthew 28:19, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." In Matthew 5:19, Christ speaking of His commandments says, "Whosoever shall do and teach them the same shall be called the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." The commands of God are to be taught to the people; they are to obey them that they may be saved.

ARE THESE FILTHY RAGS?

As we enter the discussion of our subject today on "Are These Filthy Rags?", it is good for us to study the force of Isaiah's statement in Isaiah 64:6. Here he says "For we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities like the wind, have taken us away." Now I press this question today: was the righteousness being offered

ARE THESE FILTHY RAGS?

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by Israel at that time acceptable unto God? Did God receive their offerings? or did He reject them? The answer to these pertinent questions is fundamental in our understanding the proper application of Isaiah 64:6, to the modern interpretation being given to it by men of our day. I most pointedly deny the modern application of this passage. I deny that obedience to God's commands in any age, when that obedience is coming from sincere hearts is in God's sight as obnoxious to Him as these 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6. Their righteousness was as "filthy rags" because of the manner of life that characterized them at that time. Had they been living as God commanded them they would not have come up to Him as 'filthy rags' for in this same chapter, verse five, it says, "Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways." So long as Israel 'remembered God in His ways' their righteousness brought them into the presence of God with the promise that ear had not heard nor eye seen what God had prepared for those who 'worked righteousness,' rejoicing in the ways of God. No, our righteousness; our obedience to God's commands, when coming from our hearts dedicated unto God; walking in His ways, are not as 'filthy rags,' but to the contrary shall bring to us the promises of God which Isaiah declared that the ear of man has never heard nor has the eye of man ever seen, verse four. Filthy rags would not bring such marvelous blessings from God! None of the commands of God that are today listed as 'filthy rags' in God's sight are as follows: baptism; church membership; the Lord's supper; and having to live right to be saved. When we teach men these are necessary to man's being saved, you at once hear them branded as 'man's righteousness' and called 'filthy rags' in God's sight. Let us see if you believe that, when this subject is correctly understood.

BAPTISM, FILTHY RAGS???

I shall discuss the first of these, that of baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit as found in Matthew 28:18-20. Remember Christ gave this command. Did He give something for man to obey that is as repulsive to Him as these 'filthy rags' were to God in Isaiah 64:6? Now did He? In Mark 16:16 where the Lord said 'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved' was He demanding of every creature in all the world to do something that in His sight was as detestable as the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6? Do you what those 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6 were? If not, read Adam Clark on this. When Paul, in Romans 6:3,4 says, "know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we also should walk in newness of life." Was Paul binding upon them acts comparable to rags of filth? My good friends, think you that we were buried with Christ in 'filthy rags.' Was Christ wrapped in rags of filth when He was baptized? If bap-

tism is as 'filthy rags,' then to be buried with Christ in baptism would be to bury us with Christ in 'rags of filth.' Can it be 'filthy rags' when our Bible says we are baptized into Christ; into His death; and when we are pictured as being buried with Christ by baptism into death, that we might be raised to walk in newness of life. Could man emerge from that which is to God as 'filthy rags' into a 'newness of life?'

I am asking the preachers listening, this question: Was the baptism of Matthew 28:18-20; of Mark 16:15-16; of Acts 2:38; and Romans 6:3-4, when obeyed by these penitent hearts, like the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6? Is such baptism accepted or rejected by the Lord? If baptism today is like the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah, then when man is baptized that act has to be repulsive to and rejected by the Lord, for that is what happened to Israel in Isaiah 64:6. If baptism, when obeyed by penitent hearts, is not repulsive unto God, but is acceptable to him, then all your arguments that our 'baptism' is like the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6 have no foundation and those who branded this sacred command as such 'filthy rags' are, as it seems to me, coming close to blaspheming the commands of God. Will Christ reject our baptism? will He 'hide His face from us,' as He did Israel in Isaiah 64:6, when He sees obeying from a surrendered heart, this beautiful command of baptism, picturing our faith in His burial and His glorious resurrection from the dead? 'filthy rags!' A scene like this, commanded of us by our Lord. No, my friends! A million times NO! To those who obey it according to God's directions; for the purpose he has given, as penitent believers, the Lord has given to them the promise of salvation, Mark 16:16; remission of sins, Acts 2:38. To those of us who teach men to 'observe all things whatsoever he has commanded,' we have the promise, "I will be with you always, even unto the end of the world" Matthew 28:18-20. Would the Lord promise to be with us to the end of the world if we were teaching people to offer unto God acts which when offered were to Him as the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6? Now would He? What about you who are teaching the people they do not have to 'observe all things whatsoever Christ has taught?' That if they have to observe them, it becomes as 'filthy rags' unto God? Echo answers back: He will not be with those who so teach the people. Churches of Christ are determined to carry out the Lord's orders in the Great Commission. In the words of Joshua of the ages past, Joshua 24:15, I say to you, "choose ye this day whom ye shall serve." It is up to you but, as 'for me and mine we shall serve the Lord.' May God help you who brand obedience to his commands as 'rags of filth!'

CHRIST SUBMITS TO BAPTISM

In Matthew 3:13-17 is recorded the baptism of our blessed Lord by John the Baptist. John refused at first to baptize Christ. Then it was that Christ said to him, "Suffer it to be so now for it BECOMETH us to fulfill all RIGHTEOUSNESS. Then he suffered him"

—that is baptized Christ. Was this act of the Lord as the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6? Did God 'hide his face' from Christ as he was 'fulfilling God's righteousness' in being baptized, as God hid his face from Israel in Isaiah 64:6? No, my friends! Instead the Father said, "This is my beloved son" and in Matthew 17:5 the voice said "In whom I am well pleased, hear ye him." Remember, Christ commands baptism, Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16. I press the question now: Was the baptism of John as 'filthy rags?' Was Christ's obedience to this command as 'filthy rags?' What a shame to brand so sacred a command as baptism, to which our Savior personally submitted, as an act comparable to the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6! Would Christ say it becomes us to offer 'filthy rags' unto God? He said this of baptism, that it 'becomes us' to be baptized. This my friends was an act of righteousness; not an act of man's righteousness, no! But it was an act of God's righteousness. This we need to learn; baptism is not an act of man's righteousness; but an act of God's righteousness. Baptism is not man's righteousness; Christ shows here that it is God's righteousness. Think this over! This passage alone destroys the charges that baptism is man's righteousness, for Christ definitely places baptism as the righteousness of God.

Take Adam Clark's comments on Isaiah 64:6. If you do not have it write us. Ask your preacher to read it. Take these lessons with you and ask him to explain to you how baptism and the Lord's supper can possibly be compared to such rags of filth as these in Isaiah 64:6 when being obeyed by the proper subjects.

THE CROSS OF CALVARY

Nearly two thousand years ago there hung on a Roman cross our blessed Savior, dying for our sins. A Roman soldier pierced His side. There flowed blood and water, the blood by which we have been redeemed. On the night of Christ's betrayal as recorded in Luke, chapter 22, Christ took the cup and said, "This is my blood of the New Testament which was shed for many for the remission of sins." He took the bread and said, "this is my body" and commanded them to eat and drink of it. How can any man refer to such a sacred command as the Lord's supper, made possible by the sufferings of the nails of Calvary, as 'filthy rags?' Again in I Corinthians 11:26, Paul says in eating of the supper, "we do show the Lord's death till he comes." Is the act by which we are to show forth the Lord's death till His second coming, to be called 'filthy rags?' I say to you my people, that such accusations against the communion with our Lord, by His children, is to me close to blaspheming the Lord's death upon Calvary. I shall not be guilty of such acts. God never gave a command, when obeyed by hearts like those hearts of Isaiah 64:5 not Isaiah 64:6—but 64:5 that were acts of 'filthy rags.' No, my friends, baptism as obeyed by the Lord himself and by us, and the eating with our Lord at His table for He eats with us, Luke 22:16, are not in God's sight

as 'filthy rags!' I deny that the Bible teaches any such doctrine for all the commands of God are pure, Psalms 19:8; they are 'righteousness' says David in Psalms 119:172. How can that which is pure and righteous unto the Lord, when done by and offered from penitent hearts be as the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6. It just can't be as 'filthy rags' unto God!

Remember that those in Isaiah 64:4-5 who offered righteousness unto God, walking in his ways, that he gave to THEM blessings eyes had not seen; while those offering righteousness unto Him in the next verse, verse six, God rejected and hid His face from them and made their name a curse, Isaiah 65:15. Why? Because they walked in their iniquities and blasphemed God upon the hills. They 'walked not in his ways' but in their own. The same is true today; they who do the commands of God shall 'enter in through the gates into the city' says John in Revelations 22:14, while they who obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ' shall be 'punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of God,' says Paul in 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9. We had better obey the commands of God and lead men to obey them rather than call obedience to them as 'filthy rags' and cause men to be lost.

CONCLUSION

Honestly now, do you believe obedience to the beautiful command of baptism; eating with our Lord around His table; and living close to Him until death kisses our eyes to sleep are to God as the 'filthy rags' of Isaiah 64:6? Will you be listening this time next week when I speak on the subject, "Is Membership in the Church—the Bride of Christ—Filthy Rags?" May you come today believing in the Lord as your personal Savior; repenting of your sins; and confessing His name; be baptized as our blessed Lord has commanded and the Lord will wash you in His precious blood; add you to His glorious church; and you will be clean; not as 'filthy rags;' but pleasing unto God. May God bless you is my prayer in His holy name.

~

March 6, 1960

Highland Church of Christ
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Abilene, Texas

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